



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County
Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

Thursday, October 10, 2013

10:00 AM

***Cook County Building, Board Room, 569
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois***

NOTICE AND AGENDA

There will be a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County at the date, time and location listed above to consider the following:

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have submitted in writing, their name, address, subject matter, and organization (if any) to the Secretary 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Duly authorized public speakers shall be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must be germane to a specific item(s) on the meeting agenda, and the testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony.

13-1521

Sponsored by: GREGG GOSLIN, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, ELIZABETH "LIZ" DOODY GORMAN and PETER N. SILVESTRI, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REQUESTS RESIGNATION OF SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY METRA DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Rail Board or METRA is tasked with running one of the largest metropolitan rail systems in the country; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the METRA Board of Directors have the confidence of the public they serve to oversee the Chicago region's commuter rail service; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of serious problems regarding the board's mishandling of important issues such as illicit influence and questionable contracts that undermines public confidence in the organization; and

WHEREAS, a recent preliminary audit conducted by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) into the Alex Clifford separation agreement states the “process was inadequate and not sufficiently documented” and the “settlement was not financially prudent”; and

WHEREAS, METRA Board Directors failed to consider Employment Practices Liability insurance on any potential litigation or settlement, which would have provided coverage if a lawsuit was filed by Mr. Alex Clifford; and

WHEREAS, the continued lack of proper oversight by the METRA Board of Directors has cost the taxpayers and ridership significant dollars and resources; and

WHEREAS, in a letter dated July, 2011 the six (6) county chairmen from the Chicago region committed to replacing all present METRA Board Directors by June 30, 2012 “ in order to restore faith within the leadership’s “body” as a result of the scandal involving the former METRA Chief Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, the public has grown suspicious and skeptical as more allegations surface making it impossible for the remaining METRA Board Directors to continue in their positions with any public confidence; and

WHEREAS, at least six (6) METRA Board Directors are needed for quorum to ensure that day to day METRA operations continue unabated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request letters of resignation of the remaining three existing Cook County METRA Board Directors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the three existing Cook County METRA Board Directors will continue to serve at the pleasure of Cook County Suburban Caucus until suitable replacements are selected; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners strongly urges the remaining METRA Board of Directors to not take any substantive action regarding the hiring of a Chief Executive Officer or appointment of a Board Chairperson until all remaining METRA Board Directors have been replaced and a new full METRA Board has been seated.

Legislative History : 9/11/13 Board of Commissioners referred to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

13-1533

Sponsored by: JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JOHN A. FRITCHEY, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION URGING THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CREATE STRICTER CRITERIA FOR WHO CAN SERVE AS A METRA BOARD DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Rail Board (METRA) is responsible for overseeing a \$713 million budget and operating one of the largest metropolitan rail systems in the country; and

WHEREAS, recent scandals involving Alex Clifford's separation agreement have rocked the METRA Board and caused the resignation of the METRA Board Chairman and several Directors; and

WHEREAS, the METRA Board of Directors have a fiduciary duty to our taxpayers to ensure that the fiscal and operational health of METRA is sustainable; and

WHEREAS, public confidence in the METRA Board of Directors is at an all-time low and therefore more accountability measures need to be instituted; and

WHEREAS, 70 ILCS 3615/ 3.01 vests authority in the suburban members of the Cook County Board and the Cook County Board President to appoint five Directors to the METRA Board; and

WHEREAS, the only criteria that 70 ILCS 3615/ 3.01 sets forth for the appointment of a Director is that they reside in suburban Cook County; and

WHEREAS, proper management and oversight by the METRA Board demands basic requirements from an appointed Director; and

WHEREAS, chief among these requirements should be a threshold age limit, educational level, and professional background.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners urges the Illinois General Assembly to codify basic requirements in order for an appointment to serve as Metra Board Director.

Legislative History : 9/11/13 Board of Commissioners referred to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

13-1791

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Romaine Brown

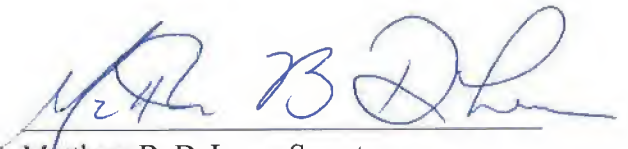
Position: Director

Department/Board/Commission: Commuter Rail Board of the Commuter Division of the Regional Transportation Authority (Metra Board of Directors)

Effective date: Immediate

Expiration date: Ms. Brown will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Stanley Rakestraw. The term shall expire March 31, 2016.

Legislative History: 10/2/13 Board of Commissioners referred to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee



Matthew B. DeLeon, Secretary

Chairman:	Suffredin
Vice Chairman:	Fritchey
Members:	Committee of the Whole